

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim status. Claims 1 to 7 and 13 to 16 are now pending. Claims 52 to 66 are canceled hereby. Claims 8 to 12, and 17 to 51 were canceled previous to this response. Claims 1 and 14 are amended. No claim is added.

Support for amendments. The amendments are supported in the specification as originally filed and no new matter is added to the specification.

The amendment to Claim 1 corrects a transcriptional error and is supported in the specification at page 6, Table 2, entries 1, 2, and 3; Figure 18 and its figure legend at page 15, line 17 to page 16, line 8; page 20, line 17 to page 21, line 2; page 24, lines 16 to 18; Table 5 at page 38; page 73, lines 5 to 8; page 73, line 21 to page 74, line 6; Table 21 at page 85, entries 5, 6, and 7; page 89, lines 10 to 15; page 108, line 1 to page 114, line 17; and Claim 12 as originally filed.

The amendment to Claim 14 merely changes its dependency and avoids duplication between Claim 14 and Claim 7.

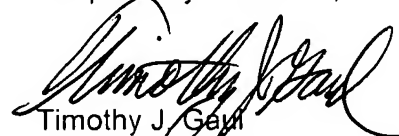
The Applicants further note that Claims 1 to 7, 13, and 15 mirror claims of the related application that is now U.S. Pat. No. 6,660,843.

Response to restriction requirement. The Applicants hereby elect Invention I, Claims 1 to 7 and 13 to 16, without traverse. The Applicants' understanding is that they have the right to file divisional applications hereto regarding the subject matter of the unelected inventions.

For search purposes, the Applicants elect the species in which the EPO-mimetic peptide sequence is SEQ ID NO: 83. That sequence is explicitly recited in Claim 15.

Conclusion. In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully request entry of all amendments and allowance of all claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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